

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 03113 130029Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 FBOE-00 A-01 /017 W
-----115527 132252Z /15

R 121337Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7807
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3113

DEPT FOR AF/EX AND SY; NAIROBI FOR RSO

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: AFSP ASUP ASEC SU
SUBJECT: REQUIREMENT FOR GENERATOR AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE

1. THE RELIABILITY OF ELECTRICAL POWER IN MY RESIDENCE HAS NEVER BEEN TOTALLY SATISFACTORY. DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS, HOWEVER, IT HAS DETERIORATED TO THE POINT WHERE IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR THE POWER TO BE OFF MORE THAN ON. THESE FREQUENT AND PROTRACTED POWER OUTAGES SEEM TO BE IMMUNE TO THE REPAIR EFFORTS OF GENERAL SERVICES AND THE LOCAL POWER COMPANY. THE FACT IS THAT SOME SECTION OF THE CITY IS USUALLY BLACKED OUT AT ANY GIVEN TIME. UNFORTUNATELY, MY RESIDENCE SEEMS TO BE IN AN AREA WHICH RECEIVED MORE THAN ITS FAIR SHARE.

2. IN ADDITION TO THE PERSONAL DISCOMFORT OF LIVING IN HOT AND DUSTY KHARTOUM WITHOUT ELECTRICITY, THERE ARE MORE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. WHILE CANDLELIGHT DINNERS MAY BE ROMANTIC, THE EFFECT IS LOST ON DINNER GUESTS WHO BEGIN TO PERSPIRE FREELY WHEN THE AIR COOLERS STOP FUNCTIONING. FOOD STORED IN OUR REFRIGERATORS AND FREEZERS BEGINS TO THAW AND/OR SPOIL WITHIN JUST A FEW HOURS AFTER A POWER LOSS. THESE IS NOTHING MORE FRUSTRATING THAN TO CAREFULLY HUSBAND SOME OF OUR
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LIMITED FROZEN FOOD ITEMS FOR USE AT AN OFFICIAL FUNCTION ONLY TO LOSE THEM TO A POWER OUTAGE A DAY OR TWO BEFORE THE AFFAIR.

3. POWER CUTS CREATE AN ADDED SECURITY PROBLEM AT THE RESIDENCE. WITHOUT THE USUAL NIGHTTIME SECURITY LIGHTS THE MARINE GUARD ON DUTY HAS DIFFICULTY IN OBSERVING THE

AREA. THE PERIMETER INTRUSION ALARM SYSTEM IS ALSO INOPERABLE AT SUCH TIMES. IN BRIEF, WHEN THE POWER IS OFF AT NIGHT, THE RESIDENCE IS A SITTING DUCK.

4. AS THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE OF IMPROVEMENT (I FEAR THE WORSE IS YET TO COME), THE ONLY SOLUTION IS TO INSTALL AN EMERGENCY GENERATOR AT THE RESIDENCE. THIS WILL HAVE TO BE FUNDED AND ORDERED BY WASHINGTON AS WE HAVE NEITHER THE FUNDS NOR THE NECESSARY ORDERING INFORMATION AT POST. BERGUS

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